



Making Tracks

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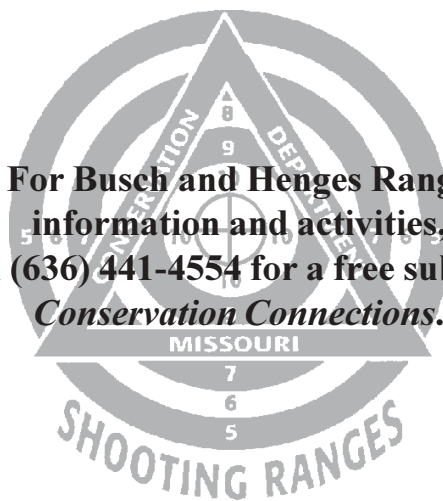
Making Tracks
Missouri Department of Conservation
2360 Hwy D
St. Charles, MO 63304
www.mdc.mo.gov

Forest Park Office

5595 Grand Dr., St. Louis, MO 63112
For reservations call (314) 877-1309.

15 Conservation on Wheels

Wednesday 8:30 a.m. – Noon
(All Ages) Where can you go in the city to see a wetland, a prairie and a forest? Forest Park of course! Join us as we explore Forest Park by bicycle and discover the fish, forest and wildlife that make it their home. We will stop at each habitat to take a closer look at what makes it so unique.
Naturalist: Jill Welsh. (Reservations begin June 1.)



For Busch and Henges Range
information and activities,
please call (636) 441-4554 for a free subscription to
Conservation Connections.

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Making Tracks

St. Louis Regional Calendar of Events

June 2005 Volume 05, Number 06



Hiring someone to care for your trees can be a daunting task. I often hear that tree care companies are chosen based solely upon a recommendation by a friend or neighbor. How do you know they're knowledgeable? Shouldn't there be a better way?

Not all tree care companies are professional arborists. Some well-intentioned individuals get into the business of tree care without the proper knowledge of trees. While their practices may not kill trees outright they often will shorten their life spans considerably.

Fortunately, there is a way to select a qualified, professional arborist. Following the steps outlined below as suggested by the International Society of Arboriculture will place you on the right track. The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) is a professional organization that offers professional certification for companies involved in arboriculture (the care of trees). ISA Certified Arborists must have an educational background in arboriculture, horticulture or forestry or equivalent experience in arboriculture. Certified Arborists must also pass a rigorous exam and maintain their certification through on-going training.

Step One: Check to see if individuals within the company have been certified by the ISA.

Step Two: Make sure the company is insured. Reliable companies will be able to offer a copy of their insurance certificates for personal and property damage as well as worker's compensation.

Step Three: In order to protect their residents, some municipalities require contractors to apply for permits or licenses before working within their city limits. Be sure the company you hire complies with any local, state, or national law that governs their work.

Step Four: Ask for references and follow up on their work.

Step Five: Unless you know and are comfortable with the arborist, get more than one estimate.

Step Six: Be wary of individuals who go door-to-door! Most reputable companies have more than enough work to solicit work in this manner.

Step Seven: Good arborists will only perform accepted practices. Ask "why?" and make sure your arborist can explain it to you. For example, many consumers have been misled into topping their trees. Numerous research studies have proven that topping is very damaging to a tree. Any company that claims that topping is beneficial should not be chosen to care for trees on your property. For more information on topping, contact Forest ReLeaf of Missouri (1-877-40 NO TOP) and request information on the *Experts Agree! Don't Top Your Trees!* campaign.

Step Eight: Don't always accept the low bid. Examine their credentials and be comfortable with the combination of price, work to be done, skill and professionalism before your choose.

Step Nine: Get it in writing. Reputable arborists will have their clients sign a contract or at least provide a written estimate. Be sure you understand exactly how the work will be completed and what the final price will be.

Finally, you can locate your nearest ISA Certified Arborist online at www.treesaregood.com and clicking on the "Find a Certified Arborist" icon or you can contact ISA by phone at 1-(888) 472-8733.



How (and Why) To Hire an Arborist

By Mark Grueber, Urban Forester

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 Office hours are Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
For reservations call (636) 441-4554 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From Hwy 40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on Hwy D for approximately 3 miles. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/buschca/

<div><div>4</div><div><div>Marais Temps Clair Conservation Area Hike: Resident Birds</div><div><div>Saturday7 a.m. – Noon</div><div>(Adults) Join us for an early morning 5-mile hike at the Marais Temps Clair Conservation Area. We will be looking for resident birds and other animals that make their home at MTC. Birds are most active in the early morning hours and the temperatures are usually in a comfortable range, which make this a great time of year for a hike to see what lives in the marsh habitat of MTC. Spotting scopes will be provided. <i>Naturalist: Marv Staloch.</i> (Reservations begin May 23.)</div></div></div></div> <div><div>4</div><div><div>Top Water Fishing</div><div><div>Saturday7 a.m. – 10 a.m.</div><div>(Families) Learn the basics of different top water lures, color choices, size, techniques and when to use them. Meet at Busch CA Lake 1 at 7 a.m. for a great time catch-and-release fishing. A valid fishing license is required. <i>Naturalist: Mark Hunstein.</i> (Reservations begin May 23.)</div></div></div></div>	<div><div>6</div><div><div>Ladybugs</div><div><div>Monday9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. – Noon</div><div>(Ages 4-6) Ladybugs, ladybugs, fly away home! Lady beetles, also known as ladybird beetles or ladybugs, are very beneficial insects that help control many pests. Found in differing shades of red, orange and yellow with black spots on their backs, they love to climb over green leaves – and feast on crop eaters such as aphids. In fact, a single ladybug may consume as many as 5,000 aphids in its lifetime! Come learn about these brightly colored creatures and make a fun craft to take home. Bring a large, brown paper grocery bag. We will also hike to find some ladybugs in the fields (weather permitting). <i>Naturalists: Kathy Hellmann & Penny Elder.</i> (Reservations begin May 23.)</div></div></div></div> <div><div>11</div><div><div>Tree ID</div><div><div>Saturday1 p.m. – 3 p.m.</div><div>(Ages 10 & up) Join us in learning how to identify trees in any season. There will be a classroom discussion on how to identify trees and then we’ll hike one of the trails to put our new knowledge to use. <i>Naturalist: Glenn Senter.</i> (Reservations begin May 30.)</div></div></div></div>	<div><div>18</div><div><div>Catfish</div><div><div>Saturday8 a.m. – 11 a.m.</div><div>(Families) Beginners can learn the basic techniques for catching catfish. Meet at Busch CA Lake 1 at 8 a.m. A valid fishing license is required. This is a catch-and-release program. <i>Naturalist: Mark Hunstein.</i> (Reservations begin June 6.)</div></div></div></div> <div><div>22</div><div><div>Pictures With the Sun</div><div><div>Wednesday10 a.m. – 11 a.m.</div><div>(Ages 7-12) Children will choose pressed flowers to make their pictures. These flowers will be placed on special photographic paper and exposed to the sun. <i>Naturalist: Gladys Kullman.</i> (Reservations begin June 8.)</div></div></div></div>
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Conservation Education Reaches “Beyond the Classroom”

July 12, 13 & 14

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Caldwell Conservation Area, Washington, MO

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Educators! You are hereby invited (and encouraged) to attend the “Beyond the Classroom” workshop, created to assist educators in teaching students everything from outdoor skills to Missouri conservation identification. The Caldwell Conservation Area is open *only* to educators and available for students to identify the fish, plants and wildlife resources located in the area. This workshop, held July 12–14, is an excellent opportunity for educators to participate in various outdoor activities to use in the classroom while educating their youth on maintaining healthy habitats. There will also be an introduction to various MDC Outdoor Skills modules: archery, basic compass, photography, letterboxing & geocaching by an MDC Outdoor Skills Specialist.

All this and more is being offered just once this summer, so grab your calendar and give us a call today. Department of Conservation Education Consultants, Outdoor Skills Specialists and resource biologists and professionals will present. Educators must have a baccalaureate degree for participants desiring graduate credit (or high school diploma or equivalent for undergraduate enrollees). A tuition fee of \$60 covers all field-study equipment, reference books, and teaching materials. Textbooks, materials and equipment will be provided by the Missouri Department of Conservation. One (1) hour of graduate or undergraduate credit through Lindenwood College will be granted.

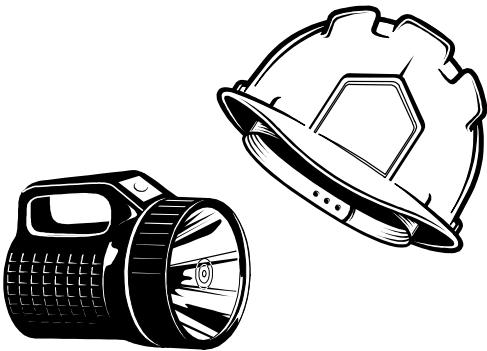
To register, please call (573) 468-3335. The deadline for registration is July 1.

2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038 Office hours are Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

For reservations call (636) 458-2236 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 take Hwy 109 north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road. From Manchester Road take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/

3 Caving

Friday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(Ages 7-13) Enter the underground world of Rockwoods Cave! Learn about a cave ecosystem and the importance wildlife plays in it. This hands-on exploration requires crawling on your stomach for several feet. Wear long pants and a long-sleeved shirt and bring a flashlight. Helmets will be provided. Program is limited to 25 participants. *Naturalist: Anna-Lisa Tucker.* (Reservations begin May 25.)



Enjoying the Outdoors

Bull’s-eye...and all it took was a little bit of practice! Join us as we teach you how to take aim and properly use a bow and arrow and air rifle. We will also help you learn how to build a fire, shelter and gather water when it seems water is nowhere to be found. *Naturalist: Anna-Lisa Tucker.* (Reservations begin May 31.)

13 Archery

Monday
10 a.m. – Noon (Ages 7-10)
1 p.m. – 3 p.m. (Ages 11-13)

14 Archery

Tuesday
10 a.m. – Noon (Ages 7-10)

15 Air Rifle

Wednesday
10 a.m. – Noon (Ages 7-10)
1 p.m. – 3 p.m. (Ages 11-13)

16 Air Rifle

Thursday
10 a.m. – Noon (Ages 7-10)

17 Fire, Water, Shelter

Friday
10 a.m. – Noon (Ages 7-10)
1 p.m. – 3 p.m. (Ages 11-13)

15 Stream Explorers

Wednesday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(Ages 6 & up) Join us as we investigate what lives in our cool spring. We will search for aquatic creatures, identify them and release them. Please wear wading shoes and dress for a mess. *Naturalists: Angel Stahr & Michaela Turner.* (Reservations begin June 1.)

18 Endangered Species Near You

Saturday 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
(Ages 10 & up) What are endangered species and do they live in Missouri? Come to an interactive presentation to learn about endangered species and which ones make the St. Louis region their home. Make a mobile to take home of Missouri’s endangered species and ideas of how you can help them recover. *Naturalists: Aaron Jungbluth & Angie Naughton.* (Reservations begin June 3.)

25 Terrific Terrariums

Saturday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(All Ages) Come explore as we learn about the delicate balance of living things in the forest ecosystem. Then re-create the splendor as you put together your own beautiful terrarium. Bring a clear two-liter soda bottle or similar-sized glass or plastic container. *Naturalist: Sally Roberts.* (Reservations begin June 13.)

801 Strodtman Rd., St. Louis, MO 63138 Office hours are Wednesday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday – Sunday from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

For reservations call (314) 877-6014 Wednesday through Sunday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-270 north take the Riverview Drive exit (last Missouri exit); go north approximately 2.8 miles. Riverview Drive becomes Columbia Bottom Road at its intersection with Larimore Road. The entrance is on the right-hand side. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/areas/bottom/

1 Retiree River Ramble

Wednesday 9 a.m. – Noon
(Ages 60 & up) Enjoy a leisurely hike with other seniors to discover the unique wonders found at St. Stanislaus Conservation Area. The hike this month will be shorter and more rugged as we journey to the top of Charbonier Bluff. Bring binoculars and field guides if you have them, as we will be looking for wildflowers and birds. *Volunteer Naturalist: Lena Dowers.* (Reservations begin May 18.)

1 What’s in a Wetland?

Wednesday 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
(Ages 3-6) A wetland is a unique place where many cool critters live. Let’s explore and take a closer look! Using nets and viewers we will dive into a wetland and see who lives there. Frogs, salamanders and aquatic insects are among the wetland friends we may find. *Naturalist: Lisa Reid.* (Reservations begin May 18.)

4 Fabulous Frogs!

Saturday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(Ages 3-6) Leap into the amazing world of frogs and toads. Discover what makes them different from each other and how they change from tadpoles to frogs or toads. Be ready to get dirty because we will go on a frog safari. *Volunteer Naturalist: Andra Stanley.* (Reservations begin May 20.)

11 Hook, Line & Sinker

Saturday 10 a.m. – Noon
(Ages 7-12) Looking for a way to have fun outdoors? Join us to get hooked on fishing. Basic fishing instruction, safety and fish identification will be covered. No experience necessary! All equipment and bait will be provided or you may bring your own. This program will take place at Bellefontaine Conservation Area, located at Hwy 367 and I-270 by the Missouri Veterans’ Home. *Volunteer Naturalist: GT Templeton.* (Reservations begin May 27.)

25 River Crossings

Saturday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(Ages 7-12) If you were traveling with Daniel Boone moving to Missouri, how would you navigate the river crossing? Come explore our river history and join a group of explorers to build a river raft to see if you would survive a river crossing! *Volunteer Naturalist: Kathy Schroeder.* (Reservations begin June 10.)

Outdoor Skills Week

(Ages 7-15) This is a great chance to learn some new skills that will provide you with a lifetime of outdoor fun. Learn about safety and techniques and then practice your new skills. All equipment will be provided. You are welcome to bring your own fishing pole. *Naturalist: Rhonda Anderson and Outdoor Skills Specialist: Scott Sarantakis.* (Reservations begin May 25.)

13 Pellet Rifle

Monday 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

15 Archery

Wednesday 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

17 Fishing

Friday 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Out at Night Week

(Families) Owls, spiders and frogs, oh my! Let’s check out what these animals are up to at night. Each night we will venture outside to investigate what noises, behaviors and adaptations our nocturnal friends are using. *Naturalist: Rhonda Anderson.* (Reservations begin June 1.)

20 Owl Prowl

Monday 8 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

22 Spider Sniffing

Wednesday 8 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

24 Amphibian Night Hike

Friday 8 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Columbia Bottom Volunteer Milestones

Pat Behle.....	400 hours
Andra Stanley.....	100 hours
Craig Vincent.....	300 hours

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 Nature Center hours are daily from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
For reservations call (314) 301-1500 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 east in Kirkwood, take Watson Road, exit and turn north on Geyer Road. Follow Geyer Road 200 yards to Cragwold Road. Go 1 mile west on Cragwold Road. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/powder/

6 Hiking at Powder Valley
Monday 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
(Adults) Hike along Broken Ridge Trail to observe the beauties of nature. *Volunteer Naturalist: Tom O’Gorman.* (Reservations begin May 23.)



8 Babes in the Woods
Wednesday 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
(Ages Birth-3) Introduce nature to the very young using their varying senses via a stroller walk. *Volunteer Naturalist: Alma Dulz.* (Reservations begin May 25.)

20 Hiking at Powder Valley
Monday 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
(Adults) Hike along Hickory Ridge Trail to observe the beauties of nature. *Volunteer Naturalist: Tom O’Gorman.* (Reservations begin June 6.)

Summer Sensations
Are you ready for a sensational summer? Then, we have the program series for you! From pond studies to “ology” classes to scavenger hunts with a lens, each week has a different theme. Please see individual descriptions for reservation start dates. **Parents are strongly encouraged to accompany their children.** Attend all sessions during a series to receive a certificate!

14&16 Family Photo Scavenger Hunt
Tuesday 9:30 a.m. – Noon
Thursday 9:30 a.m. – Noon
(Ages 8 & up) Take you or your family on a fun Photo Scavenger Hunt! Hickory Ridge Trail and the Nature Center are the “hunting grounds.” There is no time limit in capturing your photo on Tuesday. So, hunt all morning or afternoon if you choose. Trailing and camera skills will be a challenge for all. On Thursday, to qualify for awards, photo captures will be evaluated for correctness. All participants will have their photos displayed in the Powder Valley Scavenger Hunt Photo Exhibit. Please provide your own camera media (film, digital or Polaroid). *Staff Naturalist: David Bradford.* (Reservations begin May 27.)



21,22 What’s in this Pond?
& 23 *Tuesday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.*
& 12:30 p.m. – 2 p.m.
Wednesday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
& 12:30 p.m. – 2 p.m.
Thursday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
& 12:30 – 2 p.m.
(Ages 9-12) Are all ponds the same? Find out as we explore the ponds of three different locations. We will begin on Tuesday at Jay Henges Shooting Range & Outdoor Education Center, where we will conduct a pond study. On Wednesday, we will meet at Davidson (Claire Gempp) Memorial WA pond. We will finish on Thursday at Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center and look at the ponds of Powder Valley. We will then compare what we found in each pond. Come prepared to get muddy and have fun while learning about pond life. *Staff Naturalist: Catherine McGrane.* (Reservations begin June 7.)

Tuesday meet at Jay Henges Shooting Range at Beaumont/Antire Road and Hwy 44.
Wednesday meet at Davidson (Claire Gempp) Memorial WA on Sappington.
Thursday meet at Powder Valley on Cragwold Rd.

27,28 Animal Crackers
& 29 *Monday 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.*
Tuesday 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Wednesday 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
(Ages 6-8 with an adult) “Mom, look what I found!” Do you turn slowly and cringe at the thought of what you’re about to see? Are you afraid your child may become an entomologist or herpetologist? Then this is the series you want for your young one(s). After a short classroom period each day, we’ll look for amphibians, reptiles, insects and birds (just in case you have an ornithologist on your hands). We will go off the trail from time to time. So, please wear long, loose cotton pants, sturdy shoes and bug spray. *Staff Naturalist: Colleen Scott.* (Reservations begin June 13.)



Butterflies and Moths of Missouri
By J. Richard & Joan E. Heitzman

With 833 color photos and descriptions of 324 species, this book is a popular guide to identifying butterflies and moths found in Missouri. Range, habits, size and status of each can also be found within the pages of this book. Throughout the month of June, this book can be yours for only \$11.20 plus tax.

It’s Inventory Time!

The Nature Shop will be closed for inventory on Thursday, June 23.

**EILEEN MELTON
JUNE HALLWAY EXHIBIT**



Original Wildlife Paintings

Powder Valley welcomes Eileen Melton, a self-taught artist who paints wildlife and nature scenes in oil, acrylic, watercolor and colored pencils. Melton won the 1989 and 1992 Missouri Trout Stamp competition and won the 1990 First Governor’s Edition of the Missouri Duck Stamp.

Melton contributes to Ducks Unlimited, The Turkey Federation and other conservation groups across the nation. Her paintings have been published as Christmas cards by Ducks Unlimited, The Franklin Mint and other publishing companies.

Melton was a featured artist at the Southern Wildlife Festival at Decatur, Alabama, and the North Carolina Wildlife Festival in Raleigh, North Carolina. In addition to exhibiting in major national wildlife shows across the nation, Melton’s work has been exhibited in Germany and Japan.

Don’t miss this opportunity to see Eileen Melton’s original wildlife paintings in the Hallway Exhibit. The exhibit is open during regular Nature Center hours.

Powder Valley Volunteer Milestones

Bob Anderson.....3000 hours	Bill Heady.....1100 hours	Tjaden Meyer.....2500 hours
David Anderson.....200 hours	Susan Hussey.....900 hours	Cindy Taylor.....500 hours
Ken Barket.....2400 hours	Bill Maass.....3500 hours	Dick Wasson.....4100 hours
Ginny Burmeister.....1800 hours	Jack McGinnis.....4400 hours	